to appoint the committee later on, after the visit of the Chief Engineer to the district, for the purpose of carrying out the schemes, I have no objection to withdraw this resolution now."

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"I would advise my hon. Friend to wait until the Irrigation Bill becomes law. There are provisions in it tending to make matters easy with regard to this particular topic. The question of enabling ryots in a particular locality to combine for the purpose of putting the schemes into effect is a matter specially dealt with in that Bill. Further, it is not necessary for me now to make up my mind one way or the other. I may assure him that if at any time non-official opinion is insistent, I have no objection to appoint local or general committees. But I do not want him to pledge me to any such thing now especially as the Irrigation Bill contains the contemplated machinery to effectuate the objects which my hon. Friend has in his mind."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"I never want to bind anybody by pledges, especially the Members of Government. With that assurance of the hon. Member, I beg leave to withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUGARCANE FARM IN THE WESTERN TALUKS OF BELLARY DISTRICT

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"Sir, I beg to move:—

5. *That this Council recommends to the Government to establish a sugarcane farm in the western taluks of the Bellary district.*

"Sir, in the Hospet taluk which is included in the area I have mentioned in my resolution, there is no less than 7,000 acres of wet land under sugarcane crop every year. I think I may say without fear of contradiction that there are few places, if any, in the Presidency which are better suited than this taluk for the location of a sugarcane factory. I know that for a factory to succeed, there must be a certain amount of co-operation among the ryots concerned. But hon. Members of this House may rest assured that so far as the co-operative movement is concerned, it has advanced very much in the taluk I have referred to. There is a Co-operative Bank which is working very successfully in that taluk. There are also a number of societies working equally well in the entire taluk and I have no doubt that in addition to these societies we will have a number of agricultural co-operative societies also to help us hereafter, in whatever work we undertake. So, then, by the help of these co-operative societies and co-operative banks, the ryots can be persuaded to dispose of their sugarcane by sending it to the sugarcane factory for crushing purposes. At present the ryots are labouring under a great disadvantage in the matter of crushing their sugarcane. There is very little time left between the harvest and the time required for pressing sugarcane and the sowing. The result is that they are unable to bestow the requisite attention in regard to the sowing of sugarcane. If, therefore, there is a sugar crushing factory and if facilities are afforded to the ryots to bring their produce to the factory for crushing purposes, it will be a great boon to the ryots of that area.

"Again, there is much scope for improvement in the yield of the sugarcane in this area. At present the yield is not, I think, even half as much as what it is in the Gōdāvari district and in parts of the South Arcot district.

[Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar] [11th December 1923

The climate is good; the soil is rich, and again there are the Tungabhadra channels which give a fairly good supply of water for these crops. I know that there are schemes of irrigation under investigation which are for increasing the supply still further. It is rather a disadvantage that the ryots are not able to get out of their lands as much crop as their compeers in the other districts are able to get. The reason for that lies in this fact to my mind: in districts like Gōdāvari, Coimbatore and South Arcot, there are separate sugarcane farms, the officers in charge of which are able to educate the ryots in improved methods of cultivation and things of that sort. If the same thing is done in this taluk also, the ryots stand to gain very much. I know the present officers of the district are doing spasmodic work to help the ryots in this direction. I know that they have introduced a few new varieties of sugarcane having brought them from Coimbatore and other districts. The ryots are also willing to take these new species and put them on their land; but they are unwilling to go further. They do not want the Agricultural Department to come and interfere with them in the time of harvest for example. They crush the cane all together whatever might be their kind and sort. Again, in the matter of sowing, they do not take care to plant sugarcane of a particular variety in a particular plot of land. The result of all this is, that whatever efforts the agricultural officers here and there may do to help the ryots to improve the seed needed for sugarcane plantation, it is not possible for them to multiply that particular variety in any satisfactory way. I do not think that really we can expect the ryots to carry on all these experiments. After all, these experiments may or may not prove successful. The ryot naturally would rather go by the time-honoured method and get what little he can get without risk than embark on new methods which may end in disaster for him.

"Again, Sir, there is the question of manure. Leaf manure is out of question now and as regards new manures people do not know which to choose and which to avoid, and I think even the Agricultural Department is not in a position now to give us a correct idea as to the relative advantages of the new manures that are in vogue in the Presidency. If a sugarcane farm is established in this tract, the officers may experiment the different kinds of manures and demonstrate to the people the relative advantages of these new manures and compare them with the old sorts of manure which the ryots are using now though in insufficient quantities.

"Again, Sir, there are other questions like the drainage, better methods of planting and things of that sort that one may learn from the department. All these can be demonstrated in a Government farm. They can multiply the seed of the most promising variety for distribution to the ryots.

"My submission to this House, therefore, is that if a sugarcane farm is established in this taluk, there are very many advantages connected with that to ensure its success and the ryots also will be benefited very much, especially in the matter of crushing their sugarcane. So, I commend this Resolution for the acceptance of this House."

Mr. Abdul Hye Sahib:—"Sir, I second this Resolution. In doing so I wish to say a few words. It is a well-known fact that Bellary has been a very backward district. If a farm like the one suggested by my hon. Friend is started in that district, it will not only add to the revenues of the Government, but will help a great deal towards the advancement of the people.

11th December 1923] [Mr. Abdul Hye Sahib]

We know that the sugarcane cultivation is one of the important means of livelihood in some of the taluks bordering on the Tungabhadra river. Therefore, if a farm like this is started, it will certainly add to the revenues of the district and it will also improve the condition of the district. Therefore, I dare say that the Resolution will have the support of all the Muhammadan and other Members of this House."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" Mr. President, I am in full sympathy with the proposal to establish sugarcane farms wherever they may be considered necessary. But so far as the Hospet taluk and the western taluks of the Bellary district are concerned, I join issue with my hon. Friend as to the need of such an institution in that place. Sugarcane is essentially a tropical plant. One would therefore imagine that in the Madras Presidency the area to be brought under sugarcane cultivation ought to be just the whole area. As a matter of fact, it is very much below what it ought to be ; the wonder is that in one of the districts near the Himalayas we find that sugarcane is excessively grown. Therefore, some reason ought to be found why sugarcane has not been cultivated here to that large extent. I have been reading the report issued by the Indian Sugarcane Committee. There I find that the ryots of this Presidency are not as industrious as those in the north, and that if they could exert more, they would be able to cultivate more extensively. I also find in that report that when dealing with the Madras Presidency they do not recommend the establishment of a sugarcane station anywhere in the Bellary district. As regards the circle farm they say that it is not of an urgent nature."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Anyhow they recommend one."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" My hon. Friend tells us that Hospet has got 7,000 acres under sugarcane cultivation. I have looked into the statistics and I find that in the whole of the Bellary district the total extent under cultivation is only 6,220 acres."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Does it include the second crop also ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" It is the area once cropped."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Is it distributed all over the district ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" I suppose he can wait until I have done. If he wants more details, I can give him later on. We are all agreed that sugarcane ought to be cultivated on a very large scale because the soil and the climate are very conducive to its growth. But the real point is that if the ryots were to put more energy in the matter of sugarcane cultivation, we could bring more lands under that cultivation. That they have not done. We have tried various methods to achieve this end. Taking a broad survey of this Presidency, as recommended by the Sugarcane Committee, we have to go in for a large extent of sugarcane cultivation in Samalkot, Anakapalle and elsewhere. For the expansion of the Anakapalle farm we have already committed ourselves to the extent of Rs. 30,000, and money is badly needed, very urgently needed, for the paddy farm that is to be opened in Gōdāvari. Having these

1-15 p.m.

schemes before me, I cannot easily accept the proposition that a sugarcane farm should be opened in the Bellary district. For the information of my hon. Friend, the Mover of this Resolution, I may say that a special officer has been deputed to go into this question and on receipt of his report, if a case is made out for opening a farm in the Bellary district, it will be considered As it is, I may tell him that the initial cost of opening a farm is about 2 lakhs of rupees and the recurring cost is Rs. 20,000. If money could be found by the Legislative Council, I should be the first to put the proposal of the hon. the Mover of this Resolution in advance of every other proposal. As things stand at present, I have no hopes of getting more money than what we are now getting. I entirely rely upon my hon. Friend to help me in the matter. For the present, he may be content with my assurance, viz., that the subject will receive my very sympathetic consideration, as I intend to tour in that district very shortly in the beginning of the next month. And if I am satisfied as to the necessity of establishing a sugarcane farm in that district, I shall bring up the matter when dealing with the budget proposals. For the present I must leave the matter in that stage."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" It is rather extraordinary that a statement should proceed from the hon. the Minister for Development that we, the non-official Members of this House, should find money to start sugarcane farms. I believe that it is his business to find the necessary funds. If he cannot find money to carry out his own policies, the non-official Members of this House should not be held responsible at all. He has stated that at Anakapalle the Government are going to open a sugarcane station at a cost of Rs. 30,000, It has nothing to do with the proposition before the House. Anakapalle has already got a sugarcane farm and Government propose to have a breeding station there. There is a breeding station at Coimbatore and it is maintained as an Imperial concern and most of the canes that are grown there are intended more for the Northern India sugarcane factories than for those of the Madras Presidency. Now, one who is acquainted with sugarcane cultivation will realize the necessity of having several varieties of sugarcane, that particular canes are suitable for particular climates and that the yields depend upon the quality of cane that is planted in a particular area. One who is acquainted with the Coimbatore breeding station can very well realize the enormous good that has accrued for the Northern India sugarcane stations. One who is acquainted with sugarcane cultivation will be convinced that a request to the Government to take up a similar concern for breeding good varieties of sugarcane necessary for the various climates of this Presidency is quite reasonable.

" The hon. the Minister for Development has stated that the Sugarcane Committee recommended a sugarcane circle for the Ceded districts. He has also, I think, given sufficient reasons for the establishment of a sugarcane factory at Hospet immediately. He also said that the ryots are not very industrious and that, consequently, the cultivation of the crop is very poor. I may state, Sir, that this is one of the reasons why, I think, my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar has tabled his Resolution.

" One who has experience of the Anakapalle sugar farm can very easily realize the necessity of having varieties of sugarcane cultivated. Formerly the varieties that were cultivated in that farm were very poor, and were all

11th December 1923] [Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju]

diseased. Afterwards new varieties were introduced and they were taken by the ryots. Now we may safely assert that all private plantations are almost free from disease. A similar statement, I think, can safely be made regarding the Godavari farm. As to the methods of cultivation, there has been very great improvement and the ryots have adopted many improved methods. Taking all these reasons into consideration, I think a backward district like Bellary requires a sugarcane station, and the hon. the Minister's argument that the establishment of a sugarcane station would require enormous funds, say about one lakh of rupees, is rather unconvincing. I do not know how the figures have been arrived at. I do not think even the Anantapur sugarcane station, where only some varieties of crops are grown, did cost one lakh of rupees. When the Government have started sugarcane stations, paddy farms, and farms for various other crops in various places, I hope that in the interests of the Ceded districts he will find the necessary money for starting a station there also and not appeal to this House to find the monies for him."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"I have only one word to say with regard to the cost. The figures furnished by the hon. the Minister for Development, viz., that one lakh and odd is required for the establishment of this farm, are very large. I do not think we need so much money. Nor need any very large amount of money be spent on brick and mortar. I think, whatever land the Government want, they can get by lease for a specific period. They need not have any superfluous establishment to look after this farm. It is enough, in my opinion, if they have an assistant manager and a clerk on a small pay with the duties of a storekeeper combined in him. I think that with this establishment and with the supervision of the superior officers at the head of the department from time to time, it must be possible for the department to have a sugarcane farm in this area. I think it has been shown beyond any doubt whatsoever that if a farm is established there, the yield now obtained by the ryots can easily be doubled, and I ask, is it not worth while for the Government to spend, probably every year for some time to come 20 or 30 thousand rupees, for the benefit of the ryots and for themselves? So I wish that the hon. the Minister for Development is more precise as to what he proposes to do."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" I get the figure, one lakh, from the report furnished by the Director of Agriculture. This is what he says :

'The cost of opening a station on smallest lines, I hope, would be one lakh of rupees if it is to do any real good. . . .'

" My hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, would think that with a smaller amount a farm could be established. Well, only the experts can give their opinions, and as I have already said, a special officer has already been deputed and, on receipt of his report, I shall consider the matter and deal with it as the circumstances would require.

" As regards the Anakapalle farm, it is not a new farm. It is only an expansion of the old farm that is proposed to be attended to. As regards the cultivation of varieties of crops, I must say that unless you have a large extent of land it will not be possible to cultivate varieties of crops. As to the

[Mr. T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai] [11th December 1923

disease to which my hon. Friend, Mr. Narasimha Raju, referred, I may say that this disease is called Red-rot and it became very prevalent in Godavari and Vizagapatam districts some years ago."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" With the sympathetic assurance given by the hon. the Minister for Development, I withdraw the Resolution."

The Resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The House then adjourned for lunch (at 1-30 p.m.) and re-assembled at 2-30 p.m.

POSTPONEMENT OF RESETTLEMENT OF BLACK SOIL TALUKS OF BELLARY AND ANANTAPUR DISTRICTS.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :—

6. *That this Council recommends to the Government that in modification of the orders contained in G.O. No. 1332, Revenue, dated 21st July 1922, the wet rates in the case of lands under first-class irrigation sources be enhanced by 5 per cent only with effect from fasli 1333, and that the remaining rates of assessment remain unaltered for the period of resettlement.*

" Sir, before going into the merits of the Resolution, I would just like to recapitulate briefly the circumstances under which this Resolution comes again before the Council this year. Resettlement operations were commenced in my district (Bellary) practically in the beginning of 1919 and continued up to 1920. A scheme was published by the special settlement officer wherein he proposed the enhancement of the land assessment of all lands under first-class irrigation sources by 25 per cent and of all wet lands of other sources by $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. With regard to dry lands he made a distinction between black soil and wet soil. As regards black soil lands, he proposed an increase of assessment by $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent and of the other soil by $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. He had exempted from his report lands bearing the lowest assessment, viz., those bearing 4 annas assessment and under. After this report was published, the ryots of the four taluks of the Bellary district and two of the Anantapur district who were affected by the proposal of this settlement officer petitioned to the Government that these rates should not be given effect to and that they should be heard. In compliance with their request the hon. the Revenue Member, whose presence I miss to-day, was good enough to go over to Adoni and hear the ryots who waited in deputation on him. The hon. the Deputy President was one of those who headed the deputation along with some others and I, by their courtesy, happened to be their spokesman I tried to show to the hon. the Revenue Member how any enhancement of assessment in those areas was untenable. Subsequently, in February, i.e , a month after the deputation waited on the hon. the Revenue Member, I tabled a Resolution in this House to the same effect. Then, the hon. the Revenue Member said that he had not time to go into the question fully, that the reports from his subordinate officers were just then in his hands and that he was not then in a position to come to any conclusion on the points raised by me. However, he was good enough to promise, if